IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (currently amended)   A <u>computer-implemented</u> method of testing an operational integrated software system, said system comprising a plurality of software elements, said method comprising the steps of:

a)   automatically registering each active element of said plurality of software elements in a registry, said registry comprising a plurality of registered software elements, each element of which is associated with a set of test criteria;

b)   associating a set of test criteria with each registered active element of software;

c)   selecting an active element registered in the registry and testing the active element in accordance with the associated set of test criteria; and

d)   capturing the results of the testing of the active element and comparing them to the associated test criteria.

2.   (currently amended)   A <u>The computer-implemented</u> method according to Claim 1 in which each element of software is arranged to automatically register an identification of itself in the registry.

3.   (currently amended)   A <u>The computer-implemented</u> method according to Claim 1 in which each element of software is arranged to capture the results of its testing.

4.   (currently amended)   A The computer-implemented method according to Claim 1 further comprising the step of automatically providing a report on the results of the testing.

5.   (currently amended)   A The computer-implemented method according to claim 1 in which the test criteria are defined using a scripting language and said method further comprises the step of parsing the test criteria to convert them into a form for testing against.

6.   (currently amended)   An computer-based apparatus for testing an operational integrated software system, said system comprising a plurality of software elements, said apparatus comprising:

a)   computer-implemented means for the automatic registration of each active element of said plurality of software elements;

b)   computer-implemented means for associating a set of test criteria with each registered active element of software;

c)   computer-implemented means for selecting a registered active element of software and testing the active element in accordance with the associated test criteria; and

d)   computer-implemented means for comparing the results of the testing of the active element against the associated test criteria.

7.   (currently amended)   ~~An~~ The computer-based apparatus according to Claim 6 in which each element of software is provided with computer-implemented means for automatically registering itself.

8.   (currently amended)   ~~An~~ The computer-based apparatus according to Claim 6 in which each element of software is provided with computer-implemented means for capturing the results of its testing.

9.   (currently amended)   ~~An~~ The computer-based apparatus according to Claim 6 further comprising computer-implemented means for producing a report of the results of testing an element of software.

10.   (currently amended)   ~~An~~ The computer-based apparatus according to Claim 6 in which the test criteria are defined using a scripting language and the apparatus further comprises computer-implemented means for parsing the test criteria to convert them into a form for testing against.

11.   (previously presented)   A computer readable data carrier loadable into a computer and tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer for causing the computer to carry out appropriate steps to implement a method of testing an operational integrated software system having a plurality of software elements, said method comprising steps of:

a)   automatically registering each active element of said plurality of software

elements in a registry;

b)   associating a set of test criteria with each registered active element of

software;

c)   selecting an active element for testing from said active elements registered

in the registry and testing the active element in accordance with the associated set

of test criteria; and

d)   capturing the results of the testing of the active element and

comparing them to the associated test criteria.

12.   (previously presented)   A computer readable data carrier loadable

into a computer and tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the

computer for enabling the computer to provide an apparatus for testing an operational

integrated software system having a plurality of software elements, said apparatus

comprising:

a)   means for the automatic registration of each active element of said

plurality of software elements;

b)   means for associating a set of test criteria with each registered active

element of software;

c)   means for selecting a registered active element of software and testing the

active element in accordance with the associated test criteria; and

d)   means for comparing the results of the testing of the active element

against the associated test criteria.

13.   (previously presented)   A computer program product for testing an operational software system having a plurality of software elements, said computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having a computer readable code means embodied in said medium for causing testing of the operation software system, the computer program product having:

computer readable code means for causing the computer to automatically register each active element of the plurality of software elements;

computer readable code means for causing the computer to associate a set of test criteria with each registered active element of software;

computer readable code means for causing the computer to select a registered active element of software and test the active element in accordance with the associated test criteria; and

computer readable code means for causing the computer to compare the results of the testing of the active element against the associated test criteria.